

Pre Amct
3/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Tilg, *et al.*

(Div. Appl. of No.: 09/362,899)

Filed: December 21, 2001 (herewith)

For: **Process for the Preparation of L-Amino
Acids By Fermentation and Nucleotide
Sequences Coding for the accDA Gene**

Art Unit: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

Att'y. Dkt. 21123/284139

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the enclosed application by providing a new cross reference to related applications before the first line of the specification, which reads as follows:

-- Cross Reference to Related Applications

→ now US 6,361,986 B1, 3126102
The present application is a division of U.S. application 09/362,899, filed July 29, 1999, which claims priority to German application 199 24 365.4 filed on May 27, 1999.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel all claims 1-16 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 17-31 as follows:

- A2.
17. A process for the production of an L-amino acid comprising:
culturing coryneform bacteria in which at least the endogenous accDA gene is amplified, under conditions suitable for the production of the accDA gene product; and wherein said bacteria produce said L-amino acid.